

WE CLAIM

1. A printing mechanism that comprises
 - a housing;
 - a pair of spaced support members that are positioned on either side of the housing;
 - first and second primary rollers that are mounted between the support members;
 - a first platen that is mounted between the support members and is positioned on one side of the rollers to define the print area;
 - a second platen that is mounted between the support members and is positioned on 10 an opposite side of the rollers, the primary rollers and the platens defining a print medium feed path that extends over an inner side of the second platen, the second primary roller, and an outer side of the first platen, the first and second primary rollers being configured to engage a length of print medium and to drive the print medium along the feed path on rotation of the primary rollers;
 - a support assembly that is mounted between the support members; and
 - a printhead assembly that is positioned on the support assembly and that includes an array of printhead chips that are positioned to span the print area, each printhead chip incorporating a plurality of nozzle arrangements that are directed towards the first platen to carry out a printing operation on the print medium as it passes over the first platen.
- 20 2. A printing mechanism as claimed in claim 1, in which the primary rollers are rotatable to drive the length of print medium successively over the inner surface of the second platen, the second primary roller and the outer surface of the first platen.
3. A printing mechanism as claimed in claim 1, in which the support assembly includes a chassis and a channel member that is mounted on the chassis, the printhead assembly including an ink distribution structure that is positioned in a channel defined by the channel member and the array of printhead chips, which are positioned on the ink distribution structure.
- 30 4. A printing mechanism as claimed in claim 3, in which the chassis is displaceable towards and away from the first platen, the support assembly including a displacement mechanism that is operable to displace the chassis towards and away from the first platen.

5. A printing mechanism as claimed in claim 1, in which a cutting mechanism is mounted between the support members, the cutting mechanism including a cutter that is displaceable with respect to the first platen to traverse the first platen thereby carrying out a cutting operation on the print medium.

6. A printing mechanism as claimed in claim 1, in which a brush member is mounted in the housing adjacent the second primary roller, the brush member having a profile that corresponds to the second primary roller such that the print medium feed path extends
10 between the brush member and the second primary roller.